

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson would move to amend the committee amendments to LB 283: (Read V. Johnson amendment as found on page 400 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, this is a very straightforward amendment to the committee amendment. The amendment that I have offered would simply delete the grandfather clause in the committee amendment. The committee amendment does three different things to LB 283. The first thing it does is narrows the records that would be available to the adopted person from all records to simply court records and that is a fine amendment. I have no misgivings about that amendment. The second thing the committee amendment does to LB 283 is that it raises the age, it raises the age at which time an adopted person could obtain the court records. The bill provided...proposed that the age be the age of majority. The committee amendment would raise the age to age 25. Again, I have no dispute with that particular change nor does Senator DeCamp. The third change, however, if adopted, if adopted would in effect destroy the basic purpose of the bill. The third change would do this. It would provide that with respect to all adoptions that took place in the State of Nebraska before the date of this act, the bill shall not apply, the bill shall not apply. In other words, all existing adoptions are grandfathered in to the old law which is an unfair law, which is an unfair law. Now Senator Beutler posed the grandfathering provision in this...or cast it in this fashion. He said the state should not change the deal that it made with adoptive parents when the adoptive parents first obtained the adoptive child and the deal ostensibly, which the state incidentally did not make, but the deal that is supposedly sitting out there is that the adoptive child henceforth and thereafter would never have any way of ascertaining the identity of his biological parents. That was the deal. Now Legislative Bill 283 provides for good social and public policy reasons that an adoptive child when the adoptive child is at the age of 25 will be able to go to the court and obtain the underlying court records regarding his or her adoption which means that that adoptive child at the age of 25 will be able to ascertain the identity of his biological parents, which further means that once an identity is ascertained if the adoptive child wants to take